

Produced For Personnel of KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East)

Guardian East

Volume 1

July 28, 2004



MNB (E) Soldiers:
EIB Testing

page 12

Message to the troops



By Maj. Christopher Cole
Task Force Falcon PAO

Column right, Wait for it...

Don't anticipate the command of execution; "MARCH." We are getting close to handing off the mission to the great Soldiers of the 38th Infantry Division, but until the Transfer of Authority or Initial Operations Capability ceremonies are complete we remain fully responsible for Safe and Secure in our sector. The Fat Lady ain't singing yet. So let's go over a few ideas to keep us on track and help us set 6A up for success.

Prepare to have twice the number of people in the same amount of space. Clean out your offices and vehicles. Go over your first experiences in mission. What were you told that helped, and what weren't you told that you wish you knew (laundry closes promptly at 1930!)? Develop your plan to give your counter-

part the benefit of your breadth of knowledge and set them up for success. And don't forget after a few days of occupying the same space a certain amount of friction can develop. You have your ways of accomplishing the mission and they will have theirs. You remain in-charge until the flag is passed but keep an open ear to what your replacement is saying.

Are you packed? I mean really packed. Space on the trip home will be at a premium so those three pieces of carry-on plus laptop and two duffel bags need to be dwindled down. Go over the items you have and determine what is a must (Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment which must be turned-in at the DEMOB site), what you probably will need to sustain you one month plus a few days at the DEMOB site, and what things you can live without until you get home. Make one last souvenir run and then pack up those nonessentials and make the trip to the post office. Do it now and it will be there for you when you get home.



Maj. Christopher Cole

Next, make sure you are prepared to clear your hand receipts. Did you sign equipment out of MWR? What about the piece of equipment you signed for back in February and has been sitting in the corner of the office ever since? Check with your supply sergeant to see if you have any open hand receipts and be prepared to turn in clean, serviceable equipment.

OK, now you are living the Spartan life so get yourself a cup of coffee; it works for me. You only have 64 other things to do like medical, one last trip to finance...

The last days in mission go quick with so many things going on, but we remain in mission and that is our focus. Be prepared for a few hectic weeks and it will go smooth and we will leave behind a situation more stable than when we arrived and a task force ready to take Kosovo even further into the future.

SEE THE PHOTO OF THE DAY

www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil



Submissions or story ideas related to the MNB(E) mission are encouraged. Send regular mail to MNB(E) PAO, Attn: Editor, Camp Bondsteel, APO AE 09340; send e-mail to guardianeast@bondsteel2.areur.army.mil.

COVER: Spc. Tharen Callanan, an infantryman with Charlie Company, 2-135th, assembles an M-249 Machine Gun during EIB testing. Photo by Spc. Rob Barker.

See page 12 for the story

Guardian East

COMMANDING GENERAL, MNB(E)
Brig. Gen. Rick Erlandson

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, MNB(E)
AND COMMANDER, 29TH MPAD
Maj. Christopher J. Cole

PUBLIC AFFAIRS LIAISON OFFICER
Maj. John E. Moran IV

EXECUTIVE OFFICER, 29TH MPAD
Capt. Danny Reed

CAMP MONTEITH TEAM OIC
Maj. Gregory Tine

DETACHMENT 1ST SERGEANT
1st Sgt. David Stevenson

CAMP MONTEITH TEAM NCOIC AND
BROADCAST NCOIC
Sgt. 1st Class Carmen Lee

MEDIA OPERATIONS NCOIC
Staff Sgt. W. Michael Houk

BROADCAST JOURNALISTS
Sgt. Lindsey Guest
Spc. Luke A. Rollins
Spc. James Croall

ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST
Spc. Sean McCollum

EDITOR AND WEBMASTER
Sgt. 1st Class
Robert W. Bishop

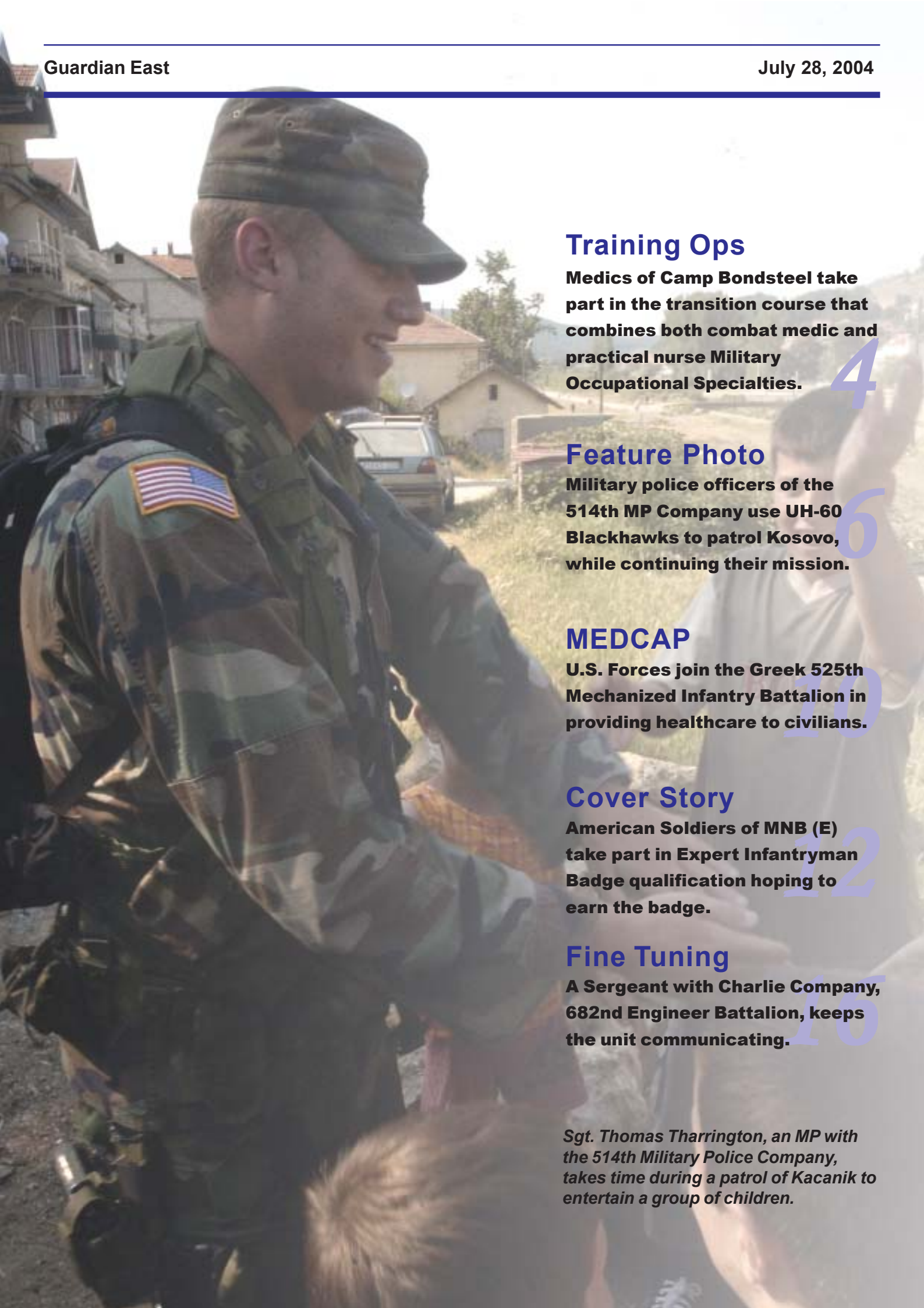
PRINT JOURNALISTS
Sgt. Jon Soucy
Spc. Tim Grooms

LAYOUT EDITOR
Spc. Rob Barker

About Guardian East

Guardian East is an official publication of KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East) produced to provide command information to service members in MNB(E). Guardian East is produced by the 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Army National Guard, Baltimore, Md. Contents of Guardian East are not necessarily official views, nor endorsed by the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army or the 34th Infantry Division. Guardian East is published biweekly using offset press by the MNB(E) Public Affairs Office, Building 1320, Camp Bondsteel, APO AE 09340. Printed circulation is 3,000.





Training Ops

Medics of Camp Bondsteel take part in the transition course that combines both combat medic and practical nurse Military Occupational Specialties.

Feature Photo

Military police officers of the 514th MP Company use UH-60 Blackhawks to patrol Kosovo, while continuing their mission.

MEDCAP

U.S. Forces join the Greek 525th Mechanized Infantry Battalion in providing healthcare to civilians.

Cover Story

American Soldiers of MNB (E) take part in Expert Infantryman Badge qualification hoping to earn the badge.

Fine Tuning

A Sergeant with Charlie Company, 682nd Engineer Battalion, keeps the unit communicating.

Sgt. Thomas Tharrington, an MP with the 514th Military Police Company, takes time during a patrol of Kacanik to entertain a group of children.

Training Ops

Story and photo by Spc. Tim Grooms

Medics from different units worked frantically to help injured Soldiers laying on the floor of a sea-hut in Camp Bondsteel. Blood poured from a Soldier with an open abdominal wound. Not far from him was another injured Soldier. The medics performed the tasks needed to stabilize the injured persons and get them onto stretchers. Tables were pushed out of the way so the casualties could be moved out of the room to be taken to the hospital. This was not an actual event, but a test for Soldiers in a medical training transition course that the Army is conducting to improve the skills and techniques of the medics.

The Soldiers are attending a transition course for medics in the Army so they are trained to perform new techniques in the medical field. The course consists of going through a National Registry Emergency Medical Technician class where they become certified to use their new skills, which can also be used in the civilian world. They also learn to treat traumatized patients, and finally there is an advanced airway class which deals with things like chest decompression and medications not taught in the original class the medics went through, said Master Sgt. Bruce Mann, a course instructor with Task Force Medical Falcon, and resident of Somerset, Ohio.

"This benefits the military greatly, especially the Army," said Mann. "The Army gets a great benefit out of it because they get better trained medics. Better trained medics means more lives saved if we ever have to go into battle."

The transition training is showing its benefits in many areas that are seeing live battle.

"We are seeing the guys over in Iraq benefiting from this training," Mann said. "They're actually reacting quicker and saving more lives by doing this. So they have already proven that it is a benefit."

For Soldiers, the course can help them outside their military career also.

"Not only will it help us with our military career, but it also will in our home job in the medical field," said Windsor Heights, Iowa resident Sgt. Jason Cutsforth, a medic with Bravo Troop, 1-113th Cavalry.

For all these benefits, how long does the class last?

"We were given the task of training all the medics here with Task Force Falcon and the class is usually twenty-one to thirty days, but due to mission requirements here it has been squished down to sixteen days," said Mann. "They're getting the same amount of training but having to spend more hours in the classroom."

Most of the students are happy to receive the training even though some have had the classes in civilian life.

"This class enables us to remember what we are doing," said Staff Sgt. Sarah Johnson, a squad leader with Charlie Company, 682nd Engineer Battalion and resident of St. Paul, Minn. "It is a good refresher for us."

After the training is finished for the Soldiers they will be reclassified as a 91W, combat medic, from their old medical job classification. After working the long hours and studying for the two-week class here, the training provided should have them much better prepared if they ever have to deal with injuries in the field.

Spc. Antonio Pous-Ojeda, right, a medical specialist with Bravo Troop, 1-113th Cavalry, works with Sgt. Jason Cutsforth, an emergency care sergeant with the unit, during testing in the 91W transition class at Camp Bondsteel.





The 514th MPs

Hitting the Skies

Story and photos by Sgt. Jon Souder

2nd Lt. John Soto, commander of the Camp Monteith detachment of the 514th Military Police Company, braces himself against the rotorwash of a landing UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter as he and other Soldiers from the 514th prepare to be extracted from a patrol through Kacanik.



ey

Hitting the Skies

If you're not a fan of heights than it is probably not a good idea to go on patrol with Soldiers from the 514th Military Police Company. Recently, instead of using the humvee to patrol throughout Multi-national Brigade (East), they have been using the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter to get where they are going.

And using the Blackhawks is something the Soldiers take great pleasure in.

"I love riding in the helicopters," said Sgt. Thomas Tharrington, an MP with the unit, who added that one of his favorite parts is the thrill and excitement of flying in a helicopter.

Though the MPs said the excitement of getting to their destination in a Blackhawk is one of the plusses of using the helicopters, there are other purposes behind using them to get into where they need to patrol.

"It adds a new dimension to our current tactics," said 2nd Lt. John Soto, commander of the Camp Monteith detachment of the 514th, who added that it gives local residents a chance to see what some of the capabilities of the Soldiers are.

While the MPs are not the only Soldiers in Multi-national Brigade (East) to utilize helicopters to get where they are going, they said that how they use the helicopters is slightly different from how other units use them. Unlike other units who use the helicopters to be dropped off on remote hilltops where roadways into small towns and villages are limited, the MPs said they are primarily dropped off in or near urban areas and the helicopters allow them to see the area before they get on the ground.

"We get a good view of the area before we come into the area," said Connor, "so, we know what we're coming into."

And that, according to the MPs, was something that proved invaluable during the Kosovo-wide riots in March, and something that perhaps aided the MPs with their overall mission in Kosovo.

"The biggest part of our mission is getting out and showing people that we're friendly and we're here to help," said Tharrington. "We're always out here showing that we're here, ready to do what needs to be done."

But, perhaps more importantly, it also provides a change in the normal routine.

"It breaks up the day-to-day riding around in humvees," said Connor.

"It's just fun," agreed Soto, with a smile.

Except, perhaps, if you're not a fan of heights.



Sgt. Thomas Tharrington, an MP with the 514th Military Police Company, checks out landmarks on the ground during a return flight from a patrol in Kacanik to Camp Monteith in a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.

Long Term Be



Greek 1st Lt. Antonios Schinas, a camp physician with the 525th Mechanized Infantry Battalion, begins a medical exam on a Kosovar child during a joint Medical and Dental Civilian Assistance Program with Greek and American troops.

arm enefits

A mild breeze could not keep the sweat from rolling down foreheads at the Medical and Dental Civilian Assistance Program in the schoolhouse in Nerodime e Poshte/Donje Nerodimlje. During a week where temperatures soared into the mid 90's in Kosovo, making it feel like an oven, Greek and American Soldiers helped local citizens with minor medical problems.

Children played outside, tossing water at each other to keep cool while the soldiers and doctors worked inside treating the patients. During the day, the optometry, dental and pediatric sections of the MEDCAP saw a combined total of 100 patients.

Some of the main reasons for MEDCAPs are to establish a bond between the community and Kosovo Forces Soldiers as well as local doctors, said Greek 1st Lt. Antonios Schinas, a camp physician with the 525th Mechanized Battalion.

"I think it's a great chance for us to establish a trust of the local people, the KFORs, and the local doctors too," said Schinas.

While these events build trust they also help in other ways.

"The joint MEDCAP with the Greeks allows us to work together and improve our coordination and working relationship," said Maj. Kevin Aston, the Task Force surgeon and resident of Eau Claire, Wis. "It also allowed the Greeks to see our techniques and procedures utilized in the planning and execution of a MEDCAP."

These events are very important for citizens who don't have the ability to get to

larger towns that can be many miles away from their homes, which can be hampered more by being in mountainous areas where roads can become almost impassable without four-wheel drive vehicles.

"Medically speaking, they don't have a health house in the area," said Burnsville, Minn. native, 2nd Lt. Michael Helfman, the medical operations officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-135th Infantry. "The only [health care provider] for this town is in Ferizaj."

The MEDCAP experience proves to be a valuable learning tool.

"I think the MEDCAPs are good but sometimes you can't fix everything. Some stuff is pretty serious and you can only give pills but it still feels good," said Spc. Andrew Eichten, a medic with Charlie Company, 2-135th Infantry and resident of Owatonna, Minn.

"I feel that this experience of a MEDCAP is something that will help me personally throughout my medical career," said Schinas. "It is a very good experience."

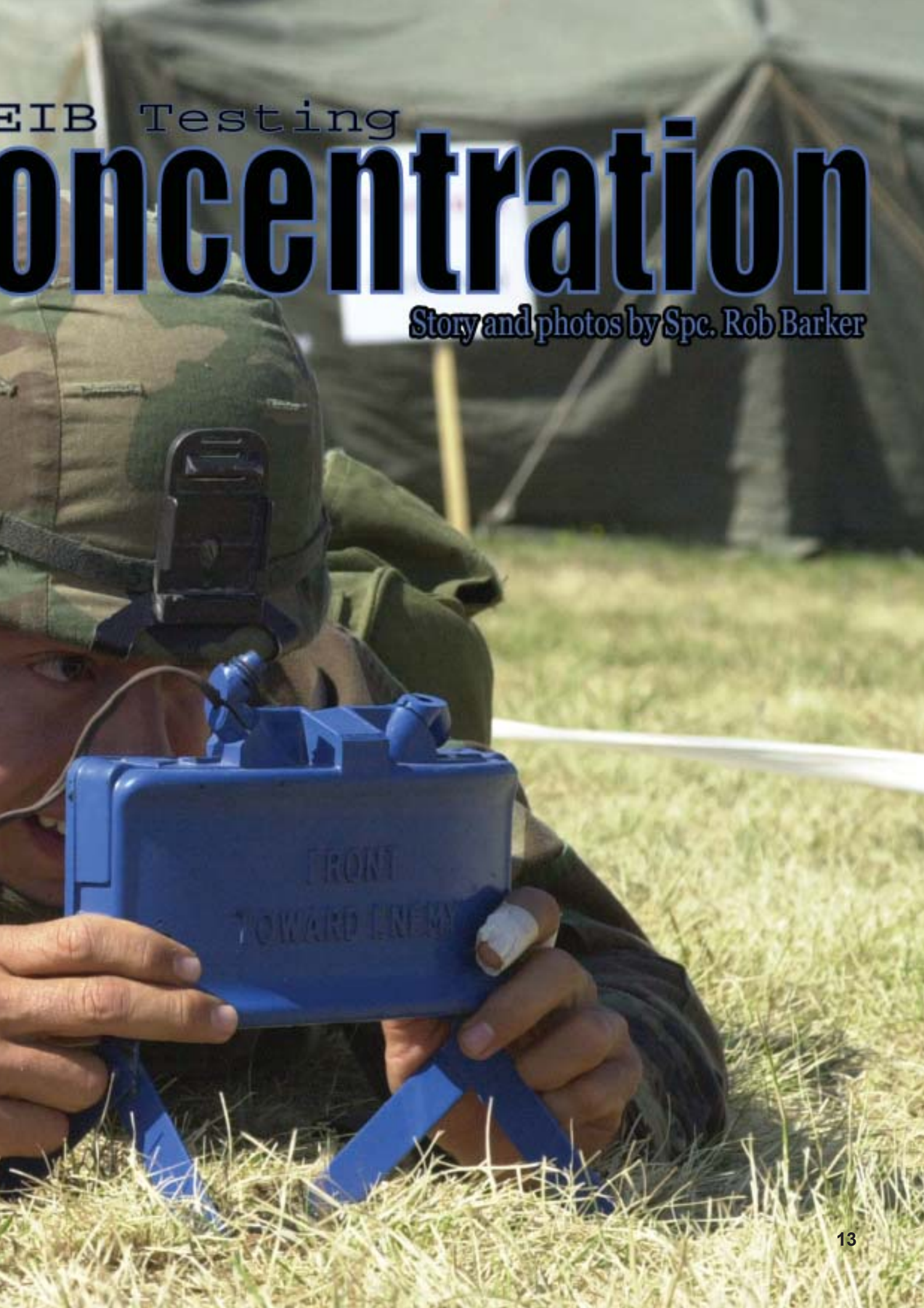
Heat or cold, rain or snow, the soldiers working for Multi-national Brigade (East) go out and do MEDCAPs and will be there to help local citizens the best they can, and most of the Kosovars are happy about the treatment they receive.

"This is good that they are doing this kind of job checking people and we are very grateful you guys come and check on us because we can not always afford to go to the doctor," said a woman of the village who was in for a check-up.

Classic



Spc. Raul Mascorro, an Infantryman with Alpha Company, 2-135th Infantry, arms a training M-18A1 Claymore Mine during Expert Infantryman Badge testing on Camp Bondsteel.

A soldier in camouflage gear is lying in a field of tall grass, using a blue electronic device. The device has a small screen and several buttons. The soldier is wearing a helmet with a night vision device attached. The background shows a large tent and some other equipment.

EIB Testing

Concentration

Story and photos by Spc. Rob Barker

Classic EIB Testing Concentration

Infantrymen and other Soldiers from Camps Monteith and Bondsteel gathered near the softball field of Bondsteel looking anxious and nervous. No, they weren't in a softball tournament or a playoff situation, but they were standing, ready to qualify. One could have mistaken the group of approximately 80 Soldiers for a company, but they come from all over, all with one goal in mind; to test and qualify for the Expert Infantryman Badge.

"Expert Infantryman Badge testing assures that all participants must train extensively and diligently on the basic skills that make an infantryman highly competent in his primary mission," said Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Ragatz, president of the EIB committee and Command Sergeant Major of the 2-135th Infantry Battalion (Air Assault).

There are many prerequisites to the testing portion of the qualification. For example, each Soldier must pass EIB standards for a 12-mile road march within 90 days of the first testing date and qualify expert with the M-16 series rifle, to name a couple.

Once all of the prerequisites are met, the Soldier can begin the testing portion. There are many common tasks they are required to pass. Some examples are first aid, communications, map reading, and weapons training.

"It forces the candidate to sharpen the skills that will help him survive in combat," added Ragatz. "Every Soldier who participates in the training and the testing gains greatly from the concentration of training provided for these many vital, yet perishable skills."

Once the testing is completed, and a go is given the Soldiers earn the EIB.

"The Expert Infantryman Badge gives those who succeed an opportunity for excellence and personal recognition of their hard work and competence. Participants become better Soldiers and infantryman," said Ragatz.

After qualification the Soldiers and their leadership know the awardees are ready for anything.

"An EIB qualified Soldier sets the example for other infantry Soldiers to follow in his unit," said Capt. Charles Storlie, the EIB coordinator for Task Force Falcon and a Minneapolis, Minn. resident. "The EIB is the mark of excellence for the infantry Soldier. It proves the Soldier can shoot, move and communicate to accomplish his mission."

And Ragatz agreed.

"An Expert Infantryman Badge recipient knows that he is physically fit to move on foot in full combat gear on a road march, navigate across difficult terrain at night, fire expert with the M16, handle all individual weapon systems, and accomplish a wide variety of the most important tasks a warrior would be called upon to accomplish in combat," added Ragatz, an Owatonna, Minn. resident.

After the dust cleared and the testing was complete, 24 Soldiers, earned the badge.

"I feel good," said Sgt. Nathan Stroth, a team leader with Alpha Company, 2-135th Infantry, and a resident of Oakdale, Minn. "A lot of hard work paid off."

"To be an EIB holder, says a lot itself," added the newly qualified, Stroth. "It's all about helping out other Soldiers."



Staff Sgt. Ramar Davis prepares to throw a simulated grenade during Expert Infantryman Badge testing on Camp Bondsteel.



Sgt. Melissa Redepenning, a communications non-commissioned officer for Charlie Company, 682nd Engineer Battalion, replaces a battery in an Automated Net Control Device. Redepenning is responsible for keeping the communications equipment of Charlie Company mission ready.

FINE TUNING

STORY AND PHOTO BY SGT. JON SOUCY

When Soldiers of Multi-national Brigade (East) go into sector they take with them a variety of communications equipment. Though few give much thought to that equipment beyond setting the frequencies, keying the handset or making sure that the antennas are tied down before moving the vehicle, there are Soldiers whose job is to make sure that equipment stays functional and ready for the mission.

For the Soldiers of Charlie Company, 682nd Engineer Battalion, that person is Sgt. Melissa Redepenning. As communications non-commissioned officer for the unit she is responsible for making sure that the unit's communications equipment is mission ready and when it is not, ensuring that the items are repaired or replaced. For Redepenning that encompasses a lot of equipment.

"We work with everything from computers and phones to radios," said Redepenning, who added that prior to deploying to Kosovo, she had never worked on some of the pieces of equipment that she has here.

And that has given her the chance to expand her knowledge base.

"I think I've learned more in the past year than I have in the past six years [of being in the military]," said Redepenning, a resident of Willmar, Minn. "It's very hands-on here. You're working with it every day, and it's nice to feel proficient at your job."

Though there have been times where the work has been challenging.

"Some days it's a little crazy," said Redepenning. "When the riots were going on, I was busting my tail to get stuff done. People needed something done and you only had five minutes to diagnose the problem and fix it."

But when she initially enlisted, the challenge was one aspect that drew her toward the signal support systems specialist Military Occupational Specialty.

"I was going to be a medic," said Redepenning. "But then I talked with a commo guy and it sounded interesting. I thought it would be challenging and something different."

And being in Kosovo has presented Redepenning a variety of challenges in addition to fixing a problem with limited time to do it.

"I've never had to wire a [tracked vehicle]," said Redepenning. "Usually it's all there already set up and you just have to troubleshoot it. Here, I had to set it all up from scratch. I'm all alone here, so I can't get someone else to help with it."

And meeting those challenges, and learning from them, has been one of the most rewarding parts of the deployment for Redepenning.

"You're constantly learning. That's the best part," said Redepenning. "I've learned something just about every day here. Easier, faster ways to do things, or with troubleshooting, you're always learning and figuring out a new way to do things."

And like many situations, being in Kosovo has its downsides as well. For Redepenning, one of those downsides is the lack of options of what to wear.

"I'm a girly girl," said Redepenning. "I like to wear dresses and let my hair down."

But not being able to wear dresses has its pluses.

"It's different here," she said. "This is my time to get dirty. [Wearing BDUs] is like wearing play clothes when you were a kid, it's OK to get them dirty."

And with her "play clothes" on she returned her attention to a stack of Single Channel Ground Airborne Radio Systems that needed cleaning, ensuring they would remain operational and ready for the mission.

Little Norway

Story and photo by Spc. Sean McCollum

Baltimore and New York have Little Italy. San Francisco has Chinatown. Camp Bondsteel, in the tradition of these diverse cities, now has Little Norway.

In addition to the American, Greek, Polish, Ukrainian, Armenian, and Lithuanian soldiers that make up Multi-national Brigade (East), Camp Bondsteel is welcoming the Norwegian Air Force.

In its history, the unit has operated in Lebanon, Bosnia, and even a previous rotation to Kosovo before their current assignment. The High Readiness Force Helicopter Wing, is one of the country's contribution to NATO, and has been active in the Balkans on and off since 1993. Although based in Bondsteel, they fall under the command of the Commander of KFOR based in Pristina/ Prishtina. While building a new base, most of their supplies will come from a Norwegian infantry unit that is rotating out. All, of course, except the helicopters.

"We flew them down from Norway and that is quite a long trip," said Lt. Bjorn, the press officer with the unit.

Bringing the helicopters down from Norway was just one of the challenges involved in bringing the HRFH to Bondsteel.

"The idea started in the November-December time frame," said Capt. Roland Kane, the officer in charge for

air operation with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 34th Infantry Division. "Negotiations started in February. Then they started arriving in June."

Approval from Brig. Gen. Rick Erlandson, the commander of MNB(E), U.S. Army Europe, and the Norwegian government had to be obtained before the move occurred. The hurdles didn't seem to bother the unit.

Col. Lorentz, the commander of the HRFH, said that Bondsteel was the best base camp possible in Kosovo. Most of the unit speaks English, and all of the helicopter pilots were trained at Fort Rucker, Alabama's School of the Americas.

"We are very pleased to be at Bondsteel because we are familiar with the American way of life," said Lorentz, "We are very happy here."

"They looked all around Kosovo for the most suitable place for them," said Kane. "Camp Bondsteel had the space available and a place where they could build their base and not interrupt our operations. We wouldn't have to add to the airfield. They would have billeting, and the rest of the resources for dining, recreation and workout facilities."

Like most Soldiers stationed in a foreign land, however, there must be certain reminders of home in Little Norway. A fireplace is being built, as well as a coffee bar and Internet capable computers to keep in contact with home.



Norwegian 1st Lt. Ingmund, a weapons technician with the High Readiness Force Helicopter Wing, tests the chaff and flare system on a Norwegian aircraft.

SOUL FOOD: MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN

By Chaplain (Maj.) Erik Feig

My office is at the North Chapel, and the North Chapel is strategically located right next to the official physical fitness running track. There's a good reason for this: There are some of you out there that ask for a lot of prayer when you're taking your PT test!

I've had the opportunity over the past few months to watch hundreds and hundreds of people run around this track. I've noticed that there are many different styles of running, and many different strategies on how to run. Which way do you prefer, counterclockwise or clockwise? With all the quirks about running around this track, I've noticed one thing in particular:

The best runners start strong and finish strong.

It's not unusual to see that look of pain on the faces of those running somewhere about the halfway mark. You know the look: red faced, hard breathing, more of a shuffle than a stride, and that look in their eyes that says "When will this be over!?". It's the body's natural response to the stress and strain of running. Everybody has it, in some way, shape or form.

But what amazes me are those people who seem to be struggling halfway through, yet when the last lap is announced, find something deep within themselves and begin to run with a renewed strength and purpose. They run to finish strong, some even sprinting the last ½ lap or so!

Where does that strength come from? Where is that extra little something found? Where can you get some of that power? God has a full supply, just for you! Listen to what the Bible says:

Why would you ever complain, soldier, or, whine, saying, "God has lost track of me. God doesn't care what happens to me"? Don't you know anything? Haven't you been listening? God doesn't come and go. God lasts. God's creator of all you can see or imagine. God doesn't get tired out, doesn't pause to catch God's breath. And God knows everything, inside and out. God energizes those who get tired, gives fresh strength to drop-outs. For even young people tire and drop out, young folk in their prime stumble and fall. But those who wait upon God get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles, they run and don't get tired, they walk and don't lag behind. (Isaiah 40:27-30)

We're not alone in this life. We're not alone on this rotation. We don't run the race by ourselves. We don't run without a purpose. God has created you with care and love. You're not a nobody. You're a somebody in God's eyes! No matter where you are, no matter what your life



**Chaplain (Maj.)
Erik Feig**

brings you, no matter what lap you're running, the God of all creation is with you, giving you the strength to run and finish strong. Take a deep breath of God's love and forgiveness. Drink in God's spiritual strength. Feel the power of God deep in your soul!

This column is titled "Soul Food". I'd like you to think of that in 3 different ways:

1. You're not alone – you're not the sole person on the planet! (Get it?)
2. You're running the race of life with the help of God – running on the soles of your feet. (Get it?)
3. You're created, known, and loved by God – feeding the soul for strength. (Get it?)

Draw near to God, and let us finish the race strong!

Pro Deo et Patria.

War TROPHIES

Don't get caught with them

By 1st Sgt. David Stevenson

There you are, standing in line at the post office to send some of your personal items home that have accumulated since coming to Kosovo six months ago. As you wait your turn you start to break out in a sweat. "I wonder if they'll find out?" you think to yourself. Nervously you approach the counter. You are asked if you have anything that may be hazardous to ship home, you reply with a confident "No."

You finish your business and head toward the exit. You smile knowing that you got one over on the system. They'll never find the live ammunition or unexploded ordnance you sent home to show your family.

I know what you are thinking. Nothing like this could happen here. Our Soldiers are too professional and responsible to do something as foolish as mailing hazardous or dangerous items back to the United States. Does it happen? You bet. More often than you think. The practice of sending these hazardous items home is not only dangerous, it is also illegal. Yet there is always someone who is willing to put another person's life at risk for something that will sit on their mantle.

According to Army Regulation 608-4, Control and Registration of War Trophies and War Trophy Firearms, articles or material unlawfully shipped or carried into the United States are subject to be seized by the United States Customs, or other appropriate military or civilian authority or agency. The attention of all members of the Armed Forces is directed to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Article 103,

concerning the possession and disposition of captured or abandoned property, which has become the property of the United States. Captured enemy property, including war trophy firearms, is the property of the United States, as captor, and, therefore, is subject to recovery by the United States Government.

Property seized may be held for legal considerations and then disposed of in accordance with appropriate law, departmental instructions, or orders of cognizant authority.

In order to transport and keep war trophies, Soldiers must have written approval from the theater commander. AR 608-4 lists the items that may not be retained as war trophies.

That list includes such items as: live ammunition, explosives, or other items containing explosives and flammables of any nature. Also included are works of art or science, which were the property of institutions dedicated to religion, charity or education.

These rules also apply to shipping items back to your home station in a Connex. Either way, it is wrong.

Before you contemplate sending any of these items through the postal system, jeopardizing your career or perhaps someone else's life, drop them off at the amnesty box located at the Basic Load Ammunition Holding Area or any other amnesty box located at Camps Bondsteel or Monteith.

If you want a trophy, buy one from one of the local vendors or at the Post Exchange.

Warrants don branch insignia, new CW5 rank

By Joe Burlas and Gary Sheftick

WASHINGTON — As warrant officers across the Army celebrated the 86th birthday of their Warrant Officer Corps July 9, they removed the distinctive “Rising Eagle” insignia from their collars and replaced it with the insignia of the branches they serve.

Top warrant officers also received a new chief warrant officer 5 rank to wear — a silver bar with a single black stripe in the middle. Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard A. Cody pinned the new rank onto five chief warrant officers July 9 in a Pentagon ceremony, and then eight warrants had their new branch insignia pinned on their collars. Four donned adjutant general insignia, three aviation and one the ordnance branch insignia.

“These are two significant changes in the warrant officer corps that has served us so well” throughout the Army’s history, Cody said. He explained that the changes are necessary as the Army moves toward a modular and more joint and expeditionary design and were recommended by a warrant officer leadership development study. The changes also bring the Army’s warrants more in line with the other military services, he said.

The old warrant officer insignia — a brass eagle standing on a bundle of arrows, enclosed in a wreath — will still be worn by warrant officer candidates as a means to honor the lineage and heritage of the Warrant Officer Corps which was founded July 9, 1918, according to personnel officials.

Symbolism is important, said Lt. Gen. F.L. Hagenbeck, Army G1, so much so that changing the insignia warrants wear should reflect a better integration of warrant officers into the Army. Neither enlisted, nor officer — warrants are often perceived as strange animals to the rest of the Army, he said.

Better integration into the Army and with the branches warrants serve was one of 63 recommendations of the Army Training and Leadership Development survey for warrant officers conducted in late 2001 and early 2002.

Other Warrant Officer ATLDP fixes already in place include establishing warrant officer force structure positions by grade, rather than grade banding.

“Under the old system, you could have a chief warrant officer 3 serve in a position that really calls for a CWO4, requiring that person to do a job he really wasn’t ready for because of the lack of experience,” said CWO5 Al Eggerton, G1 warrant officer personnel policy integrator. “Likewise, you could have a CWO4 move into a position that really calls for a CWO3, when he should be moving on to bigger and better opportunities that use his experience. That’s been fixed now.”

The ATLDP recommendation to roll back the warrant grade structure has also been implemented, Eggerton said. The issue was too many higher-grade slots that were unevenly distributed, he said. The grade rollback allows for more consistent promotion opportunities across the warrant officer force.

On the issue of providing a single-source document that provides up-to-date career management and development information, Eggerton said Department of the Army Pamphlet 600-3 is currently undergoing its final edit and should be ready for publishing in the near future.

CW5s had been wearing master chief warrant officer rank insignia created in the late 1980s. With an expanded Warrant Officer Corps supporting the Vietnam War, the Army first proposed the creation of CW5 and CW6 ranks in the early 1970s. While the proposal won Department of the Army staff approval, the force structure position changes for the new grades were not implemented at the time as the Army downsized immediately following the Vietnam War.

Selected CW4 were designated master chief warrant officers in 1988 and wore a new master chief warrant officer rank insignia. The CW5 grade was established in December 1991 with the master chief warrant officer insignia adopted as its rank insignia - four black squares with silver squares inside.

“Lots of times people called me a CW4,” said CW5 Christopher Dodd, executive officer to the G8 director of materiel at the Pentagon. The similarity between the two ranks sometimes “generated confusion,” Dodd said, adding that the new rank should “make a difference.”

Insignia for a CW6 rank was actually approved years ago - two stripes across a bar - even though promoting into that rank was never authorized by Congress, said CW5 Fred Hawn, assistant executive officer to the Army’s vice chief of staff.

Cody said that warrant officers helped him in every position that he has served over the past 32 years.

“I probably wouldn’t be here today if it wasn’t for warrant officers,” Cody said. “They taught me leadership, technical and tactical proficiency.”

SECTION Q N' A:

OLDIER

**What will
you miss
most about
Kosovo?**

Spc. Andrew Graif



Photo by Spc. Tim Grooms

Spc. Andrew Graif, a driver with the Joint Visitors Bureau, prepares to escort a visitor.

***"I am going to miss only
being able to drive eight-
miles-per-hour."***

2nd Lt. Goeril



Photo by Spc. Sean McCollum

***"I am going
to miss the
American
food."***

Norwegian 2nd Lt. Goeril, an administration officer, with the High Readiness Force Helicopter Wing, prepares documents for processing.

Sgt. John Ytuarte

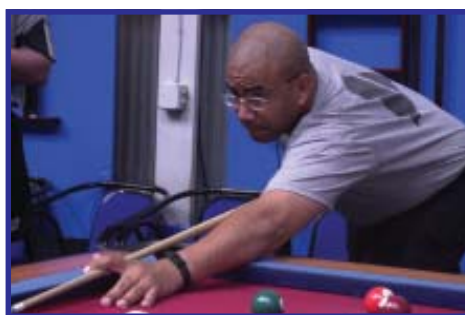


Photo by Spc. Rob Barker

***"I will miss
the friend-
ships. We
come from
all walks of
life for one
common
cause --
freedom"***

Sgt. John Ytuarte, a shiftleader for the emergency medical technician team with Task Force Med Falcon, shoots the cueball during a game of eight-ball.

Spc. Nick Vogel



Photo by Sgt. Jon Soucy

***"There's about a
thousand things
I'll miss. One is the
gym. I spend
about 12-15 hours
a week there and
it's so close to
where I live."***

Spc. Nick Vogel, a paralegal specialist and non-commissioned officer in charge of the Camp Monteith Judge Advocate General office, retrieves a will worksheet from a filing cabinet while assisting with the preparation of a will for a Soldier.

Scenes of Kosovo



Photo by Maj. Gregory Tine

The White River of Gryka E Rugoves in Peje / Pec